

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-2) praised the work of educators to commemorate Teacher Appreciation Week, which is celebrated this year from May 3-7.

Coming from a family of educators, Congressman Bishop highlighted his understanding of the commitments and contributions teachers make to society. In recognition of this involvement, he said, “Teachers are heroes in our communities. None of us in Congress would be where we are today without the influence of those teachers who shaped our lives.” Congressman Bishop then quoted Benjamin Franklin, saying, “An investment in education pays the best dividends. It is our teachers who are responsible for the value of that investment, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating them for their outstanding work.”

In 1980, Congress officially declared a National Teacher Day, celebrated this year on May 4. Teacher Appreciation Week was founded in 1985 by the Parent Teacher Association, and celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year.

Full Text of Congressman Bishop’s Statement Follows:

MR. BISHOP (GA) – Madame Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution to commemorate National Teacher Appreciation Week and to recognize the importance of teachers in ensuring that Americans receive a quality education.

Teachers are heroes in our communities. None of us in Congress would be where we are today without the influence of those teachers who shaped our lives. They corrected us when we were wrong and they praised us when we were right. They taught us how to read and write, think critically, add and subtract, and they opened our minds to past events, scientific discoveries, and different cultures and civilizations. They encouraged us to follow our dreams and inspired us to reach our full potential.

My parents were educators in this vein. My father served as the first President of Bishop College in Mobile, Alabama, and my mother worked as a librarian. I saw through them how our teachers work miracles in the classroom day in and day out. They truly deserve the strongest praise we have to offer.

Benjamin Franklin once said that “An investment in education pays the best dividends.” It is our teachers who are responsible for the value of that investment, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating them for their outstanding work.

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